Letter Service are urged to see to it that their papers are sent to this office regularly.

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS
901-909 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.
FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 18.

PEONAGE IN AMERICA

Labor Committee of the House of Representatives Brings to Light a Terrible Condition in Pennsylvania.

THREE MONTHS FOR MURDER

Men, Refusing to Work, Deprived of Liberty and Fed on Bread and Water Until They Yielded.

Washington, Aug. 5.--The Labor Committee of the House, to which had been referred by the Committee on Rules the Wilson resolution calling for an investigation of the alleged peonage in Westmoreland County, Pa., held a hearing on Aug. 1. Attorney McNair, who has been attorney for the miners and other labor organizations, appeared on behalf of the resolution. The testimony brought out in reference to the Irwin field coal strike showed an appalling state of affairs. During this contest sixteen miners were killed by deputies of the company, many of them in cold blood and without provocation, and the extreme sentence for these murders by the courts in Westmoreland County has been on the average three months in jail. In connection with this hearing, Attorney McNair and a Mrs. Fox brought out a most terrible condition of affairs which existed during the strike in the Pressed Car Wheel Company's plant at McKees Rocks, Pa., among unorganized workmen. When the strike occurred men were brought in to take the strikers' places under false pretenses and were not allowed to leave their employment even though they desired, the company claiming that they must work until their transportation had been paid for. This is in direct conflict with the statutes and has been decided to be peonage under the law. Attorney McNair filed information of peonage before United States Attorney Jordan at the time of its occurrence, but Mr. Jordan refused to issue a warrant on the information produced. A little later an immense mass of information, charging peonage came from men who had been held against their will in the works, declaring that they had been made prisoners and forced to work for the Pressed Car Company against their wishes. This evidence was presented by witnesses under oath and subject to cross examination by the Company before the authorized representative of the United States Bureau of Labor. This information, however, up to the present time, has not been made public. It developed at the hearing that United States District Attorney Jordan had taken up thematter with the Department of Justice at Washington and the Department of Justice had refused to take cognizance of it. This is one of the most reprehensible acts ever committed by the Department of Justice and also places the legal representatives in a peculiarly conspicuous position of disregarding the

laws relating to labor. It was stated before the committee that where the men who were compelled to take the place of the strikers refused to work, they were placed in a box car and fed on bread and water until they would agree to again return to work. While the committee has not yet taken any definite action, as soon as the testimony and brief is printed the entire matter will be certified to the Rules Committee, which, in turn, will undoubtedly take definite action.

CONTEMPT CASE GOES OVER

Washington, Aug. 5.--In response to the demand of the attorneys representing the prosecuting committee in the Contempt Case, a hearing was had before Justice Wright on July 31. It will be remembered that President Gompers, Secretary Morrison and Vice President Mitchell at the previous hearing entered pleas of statute of limitations and also pleading "not guilty" to the charge of contempt. At the last hearing Justice Wright did not rule on these pleas, but permitted the prosecuting committee to enter a motion allowing the prosecuting committee to submit a list of interrogatories. The attorneys for the Federation officials asked that the pleas formerly entered be ruled upon by the Justice, but he refused to do so, and when the motion was allowed to submit interrogatories an objection was noted by the defendants' attorneys. Under the rule of the court the defendants have twenty days in which to answer, and thus the case will again come up on Aug. 21. There is no apparent change in the attitude of Justice Wright, the opinion still prevailing that he will re-impose the former sentences.

LONG STRIKE SETTLED

Denver, Aug. 5.--Through the efforts of James F. Maloney, third Vice President of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, who has been in this city but a short time in behalf of the Webb pressmen, an agreement has been reached with the Rocky Mountain News, Republican and Post, whereby union pressmen throughout will be employed hereafter. The three papers mentioned have been employing non-union pressmen for nearly a year, the strike occurring over the papers refusing to comply with an agreement in reference to wages. This settlement cleans up the Denver situation and all the daily papers are now employing union men in every department.

VANCOUVER STRIKE NEARLY OVER

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 5.--It is stated in dispatches received from the Northwest that the Building Trades strike in Vancouver, which has been on since June 5, is now practically settled. It is stated that although the settlement reached was not all that was desired, a great many of the organizations succeeded in bettering their conditions and were agreeable to return to work under the new agreements.

CANCEL CONVICT LABOR CONTRACT

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 5.--The contract between the Platt Shirt Co. of Chicago and the state of Nebraska has been ordered cancelled by the Governor and other state officials. The contract was for 100 convicts. A dissatisfaction arose and the state officers notified the company to cease the employment of convicts immediately.

AFTER CONVICT MADE GOODS

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 5.--Labor Commissioner Daugherty has commenced action against firms shipping convict goods into the state without being labeled as convict made goods. The manufacturers employing convicts are using every possible means to put their wares upon the market in a manner so that the identity of convict manufacture may be covered up. Labor Commissioner Daugherty, who is a printer, has been exceedingly successful in having the labor laws of his state properly administered and it is apprehended that he will be successful in his present effort.

LONG HOURS IN STEEL WORKS

Washington, Aug. 5.--Secretary Nagel of the Department of Commerce and Labor has submitted a special report to the Senate on conditions of employment in the iron and steel industry in the United States. It is stated that out of 90,000 employes covered in thereport, the customary working week of one-third of the number is a seven-day week, and that one-fourth of the 90,000 work 84 hours, or over, per week - in effect a twelve hour day every day in the week, including Sunday.

A SPURIOUS LABEL

Washington, Aug. 5.--Numerous communications have been received by Secretary Tracy, of the Union Label Trades Department, relative to a spurious hatters' label. One label has been sent in printed on a light brown paper, oblong in shape, with the words "W. H. F. A. of N. A. Union Made". This label does not bear the union label of the Allied Printing Trades or any other label, and if an organization at all issues it, that organization is of no standing in the labor movement. It will be well for every one purchasing hats to be extremely careful in their scrutiny of the label which the hat bears. The United Hatters' label is generally known and is the only genuine label to be found in hats.

SUPREME COURT OPINION

Boston, Aug. 5.--The Saunders-Parks Workingmen's Compensation Bill, which was referred to the state Supreme Court to determine its constitutionality prior to its passage, has been declared a constitutional act by the supreme judicial body of the state. Immediately upon the court's decision, the bill passed the Senate and House. Assurances have been had that the Governor will affix his signature, thus making the Workingmen's Compensation Bill a law.

CHANGE OF SENTIMENT

New York, Aug. 5.--About a year ago the Outlook carried an article in the defense of the contract system in the employment of convict labor in the Maryland penitentiary, by Lyman Beecher Stowe. This article was answered in the Federationist by President Gompers. In a recent issue of the Outlook it reverses the position taken by Stowe. An article by Julian Leavitt in the American Magazine is commented on by the Outlook in a sympathetic manner and approves the position taken against the indiscriminate employment of convicts in competition with free labor.

MINNESOTA BUREAU OF LABOR

Minneapolis, Aug. 5.-- Under the present administration of the Bureau of Labor efforts are being concentrated on an effort to prevent industrial accidents. In the office of labor commissioner there are on file records of over 20,000 accidents. A careful investigation is being made of these records with a view to suggesting methods whereby these accidents may be avoided in the future.

A BAD POLICY

Washington, Aug. 5.--From Canada comes the statement that 40,000 extra men are needed for the harvesting of crops in Western Canada. This work is of short duration, and should it be possible to get a large number of men into that country, it would only be a matter of a short time before these men would be without any hope of employment and probably stranded. It is reported that the Canadian Pacific Railway is to inaugurate a campaign and that the Canadian Immigration Bureau is entering into arrangements with 7,000 newspapers of the United States, in an effort to get men into that country. Laboring people should be warned of the danger.

SHORTER WORKING TIME

Hamburg, Aug. 5.— The Amsterdam Transport Workers' Union has secured an agreement for the loaders from some of the large steamship companies, reducing the working time to eight and one-half hours per day and increasing the wage.

NO GENERAL STRIKE

Butte, Aug. 5.—The Western Federation of Miners in convention defeated by vote of 172 to 124, a motion to declare a general strike on the day the trial of McNamara opened in Los Angeles.

A TICKLISH JUDGE

Dalton, Ga., Aug. 5.--Because the editor of the Dalton Citizen wrote a humorous editorial on Judge A. W. Fite's charge to the grand jury the judge had the editor arrested for contempt of court and by threatening with a jail sentence forced him to write an abject apology and print it prominently in the Citizen. The increasing criticism of the courts of the country is founded upon just such instances here related. Arrogance from the bench will ere long meet a rebuff calculated to remind the judges that they are simply human beings, and not like the ox of India, "sacred".

STRIKE AVERTED

Cincinnati, Aug. 5.--A strike of telegraphers has been averted on the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific and the Alabama and Great Southern railways by the roads signing a contract with the key-men, granting increased wages, shorter hours and bettered working conditions.

Musicians of Saginaw, Mich., secured 50¢ per day increase. Printers also increased their wages 50¢ per day.

RESULT OF STRIKE

A Large Increase in Wages to the Seamen Has Been the Result of the Strike in Great Britain.

London, Aug. 5.—The London Times gives a conservative estimate of the increased cost to ship owners of the revised port wages agreed to by the Shipping Federation. This estimate does not cover Middlesboro, Cardiff, Swansea, Grangemouth and district, Dublin and other ports, but does cover about 109,000 men. The increase to the number of men stated is approximately $2,600,000 in the next ten months.

AGAINST EXPRESS COMPANIES

Washington, Aug. 5.—"From and after Jan. 1, 1913, it shall be the duty of all railways engaged in business as common carriers in interstate and foreign commerce, to furnish cars and other facilities for carrying and transporting parcels and packages on passenger, mail or express trains, without the medium or intervention of the so-called express companies." This is the substance of a bill which has been introduced in the lower house by Representative Campbell of Kansas. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

ATTACKS ANTI-TRUST LAW

Washington, Aug. 5.—The Senate has adopted a resolution offered by Senator Clapp, calling for an investigation into the operation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, to determine what changes or amendments are necessary to make it an adequate protection against unlawful monopolies or trusts. The resolution gives authority to the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee to conduct a searching inquiry into the operation of the law. "Either the Sherman law is a failure", declared Senator Borah, "wrong in contemplation of law and inexpedient as an economic proposition, or else there has been the most remarkable trifling with the execution of the law that has ever been noted since the law was first placed on the statute books."

"MONEY TRUST" INQUIRY

Washington, Aug. 5.—It is expected that a favorable report will be forthcoming from the Rules Committee of the House for an investigation of the so-called "money trust". The Rules Committee have held an executive meeting and instructed Representative Lindbergh, the author of the resolution, to prepare a new draft of his resolution with slight changes.

ANOTHER USE FOR INJUNCTION

Washington, Aug. 5.—Because his prayers for rain during the recent dry spell were followed by such a copious and prolonged downpour that their cotton crop was damaged, neighbors of the Rev. Dr. Moore, a Methodist minister of Florence, S. C. threatened to sue out an injunction restraining him from offering such prayers in the future.

REDUCED HOURS FOR BARMAIDS

London, Aug. 5.—If a bill now before Parliament becomes a law, the English bar maids will get, in effect, a six-day week. These girls are now working an excessive number of hours.

FOREIGN NOTES

The question of unionists refusing to work with non-unionists is becoming a vital matter, and the railway workers at Hull, Eng., have just passed a resolution to the effect that "the time has now arrived when every man must be a member of his own trade union, and that when the date is fixed, no one will work after that time with non-union men."

During the past month 155,630 applicants for work were received at the 217 English labor exchanges, and 59,254 vacancies were filled, 37,670 for men, 14,316 for women, 7,257 for boys and 3,965 for girls.

According to the July report of the Amalgamated Society of Tool Makers, Great Britain, the membership is 5,184, the increase during June being 975. The reserve funds amount to $112,000, being an increase of $30,000.

Engineers' wages have increased at Blackburn by 1 shilling per week, and Belfast 1 shilling per week, and efforts to get an advance are being made at Leeds and Aberdeen.

EIGHT HOURS FOR RAILWAYS

London, Aug. 5.—A bill has been introduced in the House of Commons to provide for the establishing of a working day of eight hours for certain grades employed on railways. The bill provides for the regulation of working hours on any railway or siding for a greater length of time than eight hours. In no case shall men who have been on duty under exceptional circumstances be called upon to resume duty until they have been nine consecutive hours off duty, and it is provided that the Board of Trade shall have power to enforce a fine of $100 for the first offense against any railway company which fails to comply with the provisions of the act, and for every subsequent offense $250.

SUCCESSFUL STRIKE

Pittsburg, Pa.—The Metal Trades Council has just emerged from a strike on the U. S. Sanitary Manufacturing Co. a winner. A dispute arose over a question of promotions and wages. The strike was five days in duration and then an amicable adjustment was reached with the company and all returned to work.

ANOTHER APPEAL

St. Louis, Aug. 5.—The suit of "Grape Nuts" Post, instituted against the American Federation of Labor for $750,000, was decided, as heretofore reported, against the Battle Creek "union buster" "Grape Nuts" has now appealed the case.

TO CARRY LABOR NEWS

Washington, Aug. 5.—Since the inauguration of the weekly news letter by the American Federation of Labor, a large number of papers, aside from the labor press, daily and weekly, have opened labor columns. The last paper to inaugurate the plan is the Daily Chronicle, Orange, N. J.

Painters of Alliance, O., secured advance to $3 per day.

LABOR'S INFLUENCE IN GEORGIA

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 5.--A bill providing for a ten-hour day, with virtually no exceptions, for cotton and woolen mills of Georgia, has been enacted by the House of Representatives now in session. It provides that no employe in textile industries, except mechanicians and those having direct care of the property, shall be allowed to work more than ten hours of any day, and makes infringement on the part of the employer punisshable as a misdemeanor. The bill passed the House on its final passage by a vote of 128 to 40.

"OUR BILLY" ON LABOR DAY

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 5.--Wm. B. Wilson, the coal miner congressman from Pennsylvania, will deliver the Labor Day address in this city. Congressman Wilson is considered by the prominent members of Congress to be one of its ablest members. His position as Chairman of the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives went to him by universal consent. It has been tentatively arranged that the exercises on Labor Day will be held at 8 o'clock in the evening in one of the large theatres. While Congressman Wilson will deliver the chief address, the Governor of the State is also expected to be present and speak.

THE OLD SCHEME

Detroit, Aug. 5.--The Employers' Association of this city is advertising broadcast, inviting workmen to come to Detroit, stating that there is plenty of work with the best possible conditions. This is not in accord with the truth, for there are a large number of men in all of the trades that are not employed. The Central Body on two occasions has been compelled to meet these questionable methods on the part of the Manufacturers' Association and circularize the country, advising men to avoid Detroit. There are more men in Detroit at the present time than there is work for.

CONVICTED OF COERCION

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 5.--A. J. Bemis, formerly General Manager of the Oklahoma Railway Company of this city, has been convicted in the county court of violating the state labor law by attempting to coerce employes. The jury did not sentence Bemis to jail, but administered a fine of $200 and costs, making a total of $400. The verdict is a big victory for organized labor in Oklahoma City and the state, as a vindication for the street railway strike of last February. This is, the first time a case of this character has been tried in the state; consequently the victory is assuring that the law relating to coercing employes in this state will hereafter be upheld.

GOOD REPORTS

Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 5.--C. C. Zeigler, President of the State Federation of Labor, is doing valuable work on the east side of the state in the interest of the state organization. He has organized a number of new unions and succeeded in getting many affiliations for the State Federation.

A LABEL DIGEST

Washington, Aug. 5.--All of the organizations having labels are to issue in the near future a label digest. It will be in book form and will contain all of the laws of the various states relating to labels, forms for registration in the states, decisions of courts, the manner in which to proceed legally in civil and criminal suits, and other matters regarding the legal status of union labels. The digest has been in preparation for some time, but, it being such an intricate task to compile, it has taken more time than was first expected. The compiling of the digest was awarded to Eugene Clifford, who has been the attorney for the International Cigar Makers for many years and fully conversant with label laws. The digest is now in the hands of the printer.

TO ENFORCE NEW LAW

Los Angeles, Aug. 5.--The first complaint under the new state law protecting workingmen employed in dangerous occupations, has been made in Los Angeles, against a firm of brass workers. The law provides that in plants of this character, blowers are to be installed to remove the filaments and particles of brass from buffing machines. The proprietor of the factory had been notified of the violation of the law numerous times, but had failed to supply the safety device. Action was therefore commenced to enforce the law.

ANOTHER INJUNCTION

Newark, N. J., Aug. 5.--By an injunction issued by Vice-Chancellor Howell, the Brotherhood of Carpenters has been restrained from referring to the members of local union 1787 as suspended carpenters in the official publication of the organization.

TALKS FOR LABOR

Washington, Aug. 5.--"The only aristocracy that should be recognized in this country should be the brains and muscle, and not the non-producers," was an expression made by Representative James A. Hamill, of New Jersey, a member of the District Committee, before the delegates of the Washington Central Labor Union. Reviewing the operations of the eight-hour law of the national government, Representative Hamill said he hoped soon to see passed by Congress a clause to the effect that the eight-hour law would apply to all work done for the Government.

ASYLUM WORKERS' UNION

Birmingham, Eng., Aug. 5.--The first annual conference of the National Asylum Workers' Union has just been held in this city. Although this organization is just about a year old, it contains over 4,000 members employed in forty-four asylums in England and Wales, ranging from Northumberland in the North to Kent and Cornwall in the South, and from Norfolk in the East to Glamorgan in the West. The union, even though young, has had sufficient influence to have introduced in Parliament a bill providing for a maximum of sixty hours work a week, together with other provisions for the betterment of conditions.

DEMAND FOR BOILERMAKERS

Glasgow, Aug. 5.--The boom in the shipping trade on the Clyde is causing a remarkable exodus of boilermakers from Derby to this place. The standard rate of wages in Derby is 29 shillings for a 54 hour week for riveters, and 21 shillings for holders-up, compared with 37 shillings 3 pence and 29 shillings respectively in this city. The demand at other ship building centers for the above class of labor is also abnormal and the Glasgow labor exchange offers to find work for as many squads of riveters as can be secured.

STRIKE IN FLOUR MILLS

Hull, Eng., Aug. 5.--Several hundred employes in the flour mills in this city are on strike, coming out to assist the dockers, and are still out, the employers having refused to recognize their union. The Board of Trade has been asked to intervene and this may possibly have a determining effect in arriving at a reasonable settlement.

SOUTH WALES STRIKE

London, Aug. 5.--The long protracted strike of the Welsh miners remains in statu quo. It seems that the employers offered 6 shillings 9 pence per day to the miners "as a fair day's wage". The mine owners, however, refused to interpret the agreement as meaning the least amount that should be paid, and the offer was taken by the miners to mean that there would practically be no fixed scale of wages, the operators being allowed to determine as to what a fair day's work and a fair day's wage consisted of. As a result, the strike is being continued. The question of fixing a national minimum wage for work at abnormal places will be discussed at a conference of the Miners' Federation to be held shortly.

A CORRECTION

Washington, Aug. 5.--In last week's news letter there appeared a notice relative to plans being in hand to establish a national Journeymen Barbers' home, and also stating that an offer of land and money with which to erect a home had been made. In a letter from Jacob Fischer, of Indianapolis, General Secretary-Treasurer, it is stated that this article is not in accord with the facts. He states that a plan to establish a home was defeated at the last convention and that no further action has been taken. The information received at headquarters was deemed at the time reliable, but this correction is made in order that the true facts may be given publicity.

IMMIGRATION FRAUDS

London, Aug.5.--John Oram, alias Charles Waters, has been committed for trial for frauds in connection with the Western Canada Immigration Society. He has, it is asserted, advertised and assisted carpenters for passage to Western Canada and then obtained deposits from a number of men. When arrested the prisoner said his intention was to supply his victims with return tickets. This is one of the many instances where men are bilked and deluded into migrating to countries where there is no opportunity for employment.

TWO NEW ORGANIZATIONS

Virginia, Minn., Aug. 5.—Two new organizations have just been formed here by John B. Chubbuck, special organizer for the American Federation of Labor-the Retail Clerks and the Journeymen Tailors. These organizations started off with a good membership. A Trades Council has also been instituted at International Falls and a re-organization also of the Plumbers at the latter place.

FOR NATIONAL BANK GUARANTEE

Washington, Aug. 5.—Representative Candler, of Mississippi, has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives providing that "every national bank organized under the laws of the United States shall, on or before the first day of January of each year after the passage of this act, deposit with the treasurer of the United States a sum equal to one-fourth of one per cent of its average deposits for the six months preceding said first day of January. * * * In case any such national bank shall fail to make such deposit, it shall work a forfeiture of its charter; whenever the comptroller of the Currency shall be advised of the failure of any national bank, he shall at once ascertain the amount due depositors and creditors of the bank (not including stock holders, officers or directors) and from the special fund provided for, shall, as soon as convenient, cause to be paid to such depositors and creditors (not including stock holders, officers or directors) the amount due them." This bill intends to guarantee the deposits of individuals in national banks in practically the same manner as is done now in Oklahoma for depositors in state banks.

RE-INDICTED

Los Angeles, Aug. 5.—Bert H. Conners, F. Ira Bender and A. B. Maple, the three men who were indicted for dynamiting the County Hall of Records, and who were dismissed by Judge Willis because the rights of the defendants had not been protected, have been re-indicted. Clarence Darrow is the chief counsel for these men and it is stated that when the case again comes up, motions will be filed to quash the new indictments against them, making allegations of bias on the part of certain members of the Grand Jury, as well as other motions.

PRINTER ON SCHOOL BOARD

Chicago, Aug. 5.—John C. Harding, organizer for the Chicago typographical union, has been appointed by Mayor Harrison a member of the school board. This is the second time that Mr. Harding has been on the school board and is a thoroughly capable and efficient addition to the Board.

UNIONS AND CONVICT EMPLOYERS

Toledo, Aug. 5.—Four suits have been filed by Attorney-General Hogan against the La Salle-Koch Co., W. L. Milner Co., Nugent Furniture Co. and Finkbiner Furniture Co., asking the court to restrain these stores from offering for sale or selling any fibre rush furniture made in the penitentiary at Jackson, Mich., that is not labeled, branded ot marked "convict made". It was through the unions that this suit was commenced.